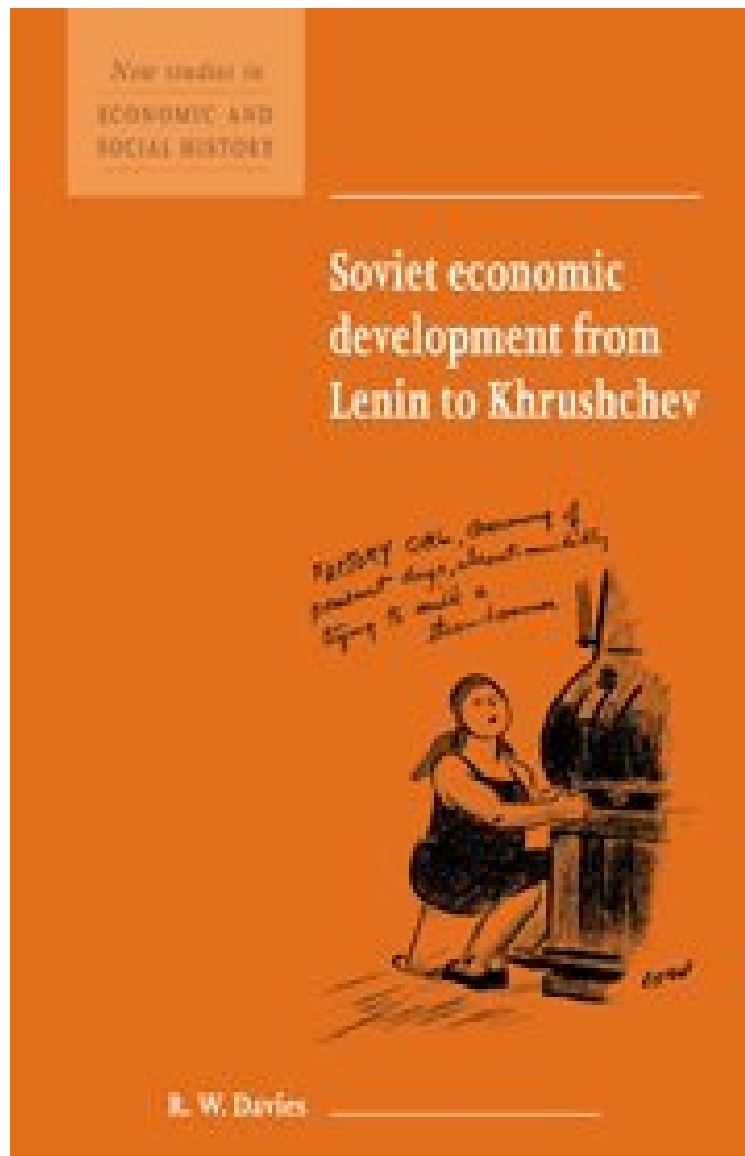


(Download) Soviet Economic Development from Lenin to Khrushchev (New Studies in Economic and Social History)

## Soviet Economic Development from Lenin to Khrushchev (New Studies in Economic and Social History)

*R. W. Davies*

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#2170166 in Books Cambridge University Press 1998-03-28  
Ingredients: Example Ingredients  
Original language: English  
PDF # 1 8.50 x .31 x 5.431, .30 #File Name: 0521627427128 pages | File size: 65.Mb

**R. W. Davies : Soviet Economic Development from Lenin to Khrushchev (New Studies in Economic and Social History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Soviet Economic Development from Lenin to Khrushchev (New Studies in Economic and Social History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Little ReadBy The Lovecratian RecluseBarely 85 pages in length, it is a good introduction into researching and understanding the economic history of the USSR. Compiled after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it shows the economic conditions immediately prior to the revolutions of '17 and traces economic development on through to the early 50's. One good aspect of this work was in pointing out how official statistics were troublesome in dealing simply because falsification was the norm back then in avoiding being purged or removed from ones post. Nevertheless they were able to take much of the information available and piece together the likely actual development of the nation into the height of the Cold War era. Not really for the average reader, but more so for the scholarly type. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Short popular introduction to the history of Soviet industrializationBy M. A. KrulR. W. Davies, who can probably lay claim to the title of being the single person most knowledgeable about the economic history of the USSR, was asked to write this popular introduction to the topic in the Cambridge series "New Studies in Economic and Social History", intended for a wider public than usual for such monographs. The result is an excellent and readable, while information-dense, overview of about 84 pages of real content. Davies begins with the Czarist industrialization, putting it in the context of the attempts (earlier by Peter the Great and others) to modernize Russia to maintain its military power on the continental scene. He shows how the state undertook protectionism and investment in railways, as well as inviting much foreign investment, to develop Russia's industry in the period before WWI. He then continues with War Communism and its attempts to win the Civil War and stave off famine, then the NEP and its compromise politics. The main part of the booklet, as one might expect, is taken up however by Stalin's industrialization policies, their methods, and their effects. Afterward there is a short discussion of Khrushchov's reforms, his attempts to develop agriculture more (always the weakest link in the Soviet chain) and the subsequent beginning of the collapse in the 1970s under Brezhnev. Davies is not just a very competent historian, but also a very even-handed one. He takes the time to explain the controversial issues in Soviet economic history (and there are many), the positions of various players in it, and his own. He himself is neither afraid to criticize the USSR nor afraid to give it the credit that is due. One thing that is unfortunate is that this book was published in 1998, and therefore did not include the major new modelling study of the Soviet industrialization by Robert C. Allen, "Farm to Factory" (Farm to Factory: A Reinterpretation of the Soviet Industrial Revolution (Princeton Economic History of the Western World)), which was published in 2003. Allen's book constitutes a major defense of the Preobrazhensky-Stalin heavy industrialization strategy as against the NEP (and Paul Gregory's capitalist road), and is recommended as a complement to this book. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A very good guideBy L. Silva SantistebanIf you want an overview on this subject you should give a try on this book

This book provides a comprehensive survey of Soviet economic development from 1917 to 1965 in the context of the prerevolutionary economy. In these years the Soviet Union was transformed from a predominantly agrarian country into a major industrial power. These developments resulted in great economic achievements at great human cost. Professor Davies discusses the inherent faults and strengths of the Soviet system, paying particular attention to the major controversies, and presents the results of recent Russian and Western research.

"We are quite fortunate that a scholar of Davies' maturity and depth has taken the time to write such an accessible and useful book for those who do not have the time or inclination to get into the specialized literature." Paul Gregory, EH.Net About the Author fm.author\_biographical\_note1